viz. Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) for Indian Navy and Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) for Indian Air Force with M/s Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), Israel.

(c) and (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a regular case relating to the procurement of Barak Anti Missile Defence System for the Navy in which M/s IAI, Israel is also involved. The case is pending investigation.

Use of defence aeroplanes/helicopters for private use

2195. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for making available the services of helicopters/ aeroplanes in case of emergency requirements in any part of the country;

(b) what are the reasons for not making available the aeroplane, when the Thekkady disaster took place in Kerala;

(c) what are the reasons for allowing the Defence aeroplanes/helicopters to transport the motor vehicles for private use;

(d) the details of the aircrafts allowed for private use for the last one year; and

(e) the amount collected, if any, by way of transportation charges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) As per extant instructions, Air Force aircraft can be made available to meet requests from State Governments/Union Territories for assistance in grave emergency or catastrophe. Evacuation of casualties/transportation of dead bodies is considered generally in cases of locations which are remote/inaccessible, against payment. In case of Thekkady disaster in Kerala, although the Government of Kerala had initially requested for transportation of dead bodies of metropolitan cities, since Cochin was well connected on civil airline network, and it would have taken time to withdraw the IAF aircraft and because of other operational reasons it was decided that the best way would be to use civil aircraft.

(d) and (e) Based on the request of Indian Olympic Association, one helicopter each has been provided for aerial photography for the purpose of live telecast of Bangalore marathon in May, 2009 and Delhi Half marathon in November, 2009. Bills for airlift are raised as per Government orders and rates notified.

Army officers obliged by gifts by US arms companies

†2196. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news item published in newspapers is correct that army officers were obliged by gifts from American companies during purchasing of military items from United States of America;

(b) whether Government has initiated any inquiry on the basis of the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.